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Here are my comments on the 2007 USDA FARM BILL to be presented at Berlin CT on Oct 1, 2005. I will respond to two of the questions.

Question One—I believe we are going to face a serious energy problem in this country. Fossil sources of energy are finite. We can punch holes in the North Pole and South Pole Regions, and all the seas of the world, but there is going to be a limit to the supply. I believe it is time that the government takes a proactive approach to the problem. We need get away from governing from crisis to crisis.

Suggestions—CONSERVATION must be the guide to this problem. Here are a few suggestions. We need to repair and update our rail system. Europe can do it why can't USA. To me it makes no sense to have "18-Wheelers" hauling bulk agriculture products on the inter state system. ie 100 "18 Wheelers" loaded on rail flat bed would save thousands gallons of fuel. The trucking system needs to become of an intra-state system and tie in with a modern rail system.

Second suggestion—Take a more active role in protecting farmland surrounding large populated areas. These farmlands could produce perishable foods. Thus saving shipping long distances.

Question Four—I believe the current bill has been successful in achieving most of the conservation goals. I want to give a personal example. In 1992 I acquired a grain farm in Kankakee County Illinois. The farm had numerson soil and related problems—soil erosion, damage to exisiting drainage systems soil fertility problems etc.. We have constructed nearly a mile of grassed waterways, 8000 feet of terraces with associated tile drainage. Changed tillage methods to reduce sheet erosion.

These practics were planned and construction was supervised by NRCS of USDA cost sharing funds from FSA of USDA. This Combination of professional help and funding has been key to improving the production of my farm and helping protect the water quality in the streams.

I believe it is very important to continue and also strengthen these programs

Elmer E. Offerman